

Natural SPoD Frequently Asked Questions

This document contains frequently asked questions regarding Natural Single Point of Development. Where applicable, reference will be made to relevant problem descriptions/solutions that are maintained in Software AG's Support Information System SAGSIS.

- Which versions of Natural will be useable in a SPoD environment?
 - Can Natural objects of previous versions be used in a SPoD environment?
 - Do I need Predict?
 - Can I use earlier versions of Predict in conjunction with SPoD?
 - Can I use Predict Case in a SPoD environment?
 - Can I use Natural Construct for Mainframes in a SPoD environment?
 - Can I use Predict Application Control in a SPoD environment?
 - Can I proceed without using a SPoD environment?
 - What is the difference between the SPoD application concept and the application shell concept existing in Natural for Windows?
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Which versions of Natural will be useable in a SPoD environment?

As a prerequisite for **creating and operating** a Natural remote development environment, the following versions of the following products are currently required:

- Natural for Windows Version 5.1.1 or higher
- Natural Remote Development Server Version 1.1.1 or higher
- Natural for Mainframes Version 3.1.5 or higher

Any earlier version of Natural for Mainframes or for Windows (and, in the future, Unix or OpenVMS) can be administered in a SPoD environment. The same applies to the applications and objects created with earlier Natural versions. For remote development, however, only the aforementioned Natural versions can be used.

Can Natural objects of previous versions be used in a SPoD environment?

Yes, Natural objects of previous versions can be used in a SPoD environment without migration.

Do I need Predict?

No, although the SPoD approach requires a Development Server File which is a central Natural system file structured like the FDIC file. This does not mean that Predict is a prerequisite for remote development. The SPoD environment features its own XRef functionality which is available as a plug-in. Nevertheless, Predict Version 4.2 and subsequent versions will support the SPoD application concept.

Can I use earlier versions of Predict in conjunction with SPoD?

Definitely not! Using a Predict version lower than 4.2 in conjunction with the remote development environment would destroy the information that is held in the Development Server File. Predict Version 4.2 offers a migration path from the Predict 4.1 FDIC to the Development Server File so that Predict data can be used in Natural SPoD's Application Manager.

Can I use Predict Case in a SPoD environment?

Predict Case (PCA) will not be integrated into the SPoD concept. It can be invoked like any other mainframe Natural application via the terminal emulation feature of the remote development environment. However, Predict Case objects will not appear in the remote development tree view.

Can I use Natural Construct for Mainframes in a SPoD environment?

Natural Construct (CST) for Mainframes will not currently be integrated into the SPoD concept. Currently, it can be invoked like any other mainframe Natural application via the terminal emulation feature of the remote development environment. However, Construct objects will not appear in the remote development tree view. A partial integration of Construct functionality is under consideration.

Can I use Predict Application Control in a SPoD environment?

Predict Application Control (PAC) will not currently be integrated into the SPoD concept. Currently, it can be invoked like any other mainframe Natural application via the terminal emulation feature of the remote development environment. However, PAC objects will not appear in the remote development tree view. A partial integration of PAC functionality is currently under consideration.

Can I proceed without using a SPoD environment?

Yes, you can use the new SPoD-enabled versions of Natural products (Natural 5.1.1 for Windows, Natural 3.1.5 for Mainframes, Predict for Mainframes 4.2.1, etc.) in the conventional, platform-specific way. So you can profit from changes/enhancements made to these versions.

You can decide to change over to the Natural SPoD scenario at a later point of time. All you need to do is to install the remote development server plug-in (NDV) for the target platform and the desired plug-in(s) for Natural Studio, for example the XRef GUI Client.

There will be certain features in Natural Studio (for example, the application view) which you do not need in a single platform Natural development environment. In case of doubt, read the help texts. SPoD-specific functionality will be marked accordingly.

What is the difference between the SPoD application concept and the application shell concept existing in Natural for Windows?

The application shell is used with the frame gallery for developing, administering, and monitoring application solutions. Together, they provide an infrastructure in which numerous standards are defined and are implemented in the form of reusable components, such as dialogs and procedures.

The application concept introduced with Natural Single Point of Development is intended to address the structure of customer solutions so as to get a new **logical** view on the solution which is not limited by the boundaries of the Natural libraries.